

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-8 and 14-16 allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of Nakaune (US Pub. No. 2003/0080091) fails to disclose or suggest a method of plasma-etching an organic material film with "a process gas including an ionization accelerating mono-atomic gas that is ionized from a ground state or metastable state with an ionization energy of 10 eV or below and has a maximum ionization cross-section of 2×10^{-16} cm² or above, and a poly-atomic molecular gas, a flow rate ratio of the ionization accelerating mono-atomic gas relative to the poly-atomic molecular gas in the process gas being 0.5 or above" as defined in applicants' independent claims 1 and 14.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Cancel claims 9-13

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Michael Makuch on 3/20/2008

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MAKI A. ANGADI whose telephone number is (571)272-8213. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 4.30 PM.

6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine G. Norton can be reached on 571-272-1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Maki A Angadi/
Examiner, Art Unit 1792

Art Unit: 1792

/Shamim Ahmed/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792